

Remarks

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Examiner's Office Action dated April 4, 2006. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and comments set forth below.

By this Amendment, typographical mistakes are corrected in claims 14 and 16. No substantive amendments are made to the claims. Accordingly, claims 1-19 are pending in the application, with claim 4 withdrawn as being directed to a different species. Claims 1 and 10 are believed to be generic to both species.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-13 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,678,813 to Osako for the reasons set forth in paragraph 4 spanning pages 2-3 of the Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Osako is directed to a book-binding method for a saddle-stitched bound book. Paragraphs [0004]- [0005] of the present patent application describe Osako, which discloses a book consisting of three parts which is produced with a method as shown in Figure 9. Three separate bookbinding lines B, D and E are used in the method taught by Osako where the binding operation always moves from the right to the left. On the bookbinding line D, a book a' consisting of several printed signatures 301 is gathered and is subsequently stitched in the station 120, **from the inside toward the outside** (see column 9, lines 38-50 of Osako) . Following this, the stitched book a' is conveyed further to the station 123 where adhesive is applied to the fold with bent staple ends (the back-saddle-stitched book a' of Osako). Next, a feeder 124 provides an opened book b' from separate bookbinding line B and stitched from the outside toward the inside in the station 114 onto the adhesive-covered, stitched book a'. This results in a composite

saddle-stitched book c', composed of books a' and b', which are provided with closed, opposite arranged staple legs at the glued connection. That is, as described in the originally-filed application, the wire staple closures that project along the outside folded edge are covered by a stapled book with adhesive to hide the staple closures. Consequently, Osako fails to disclose a method where a printed product is wire-stitched along the outside folded edge so that the preformed wires point toward the inside folded edge and then, the outside folded edge is covered with a protective signature page, as required in claim 1 and depending claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-9 and 19 of the present application. Consequently, Osako cannot anticipate these claims as it fails to teach each and every recite feature of the claims.

On the bookbinding line D of Osako, the composite saddle-stitched book c' is conveyed further and is subsequently transferred to a bookbinding line E, which is embodied as a perfect binding machine, where it is gripped by a transporting clamp 130 that is attached to a circulating conveyor chain 129. Along the further conveying path - from the right to the left - the composite saddle-stitched books c' pass through an adhesive application station 131 where adhesive is applied to the back of the composite saddle-stitched book c', which is subsequently provided with a cover 101 that is pulled off a cover feeder 132. The cover 101 is pressed onto the flanks, relative to the back, against the intermediate product c' with the aid of the clamping strips 135. That is, the **inside folded edge** of a protective sheet or cover is glued to the **outside** folded edge of a print product. Thus, Osako fails to disclose the recited gluing step of claim 1 and the recited circulating intermediate conveyor of independent claim 10 as Osako discloses a method and apparatus for producing print products with different steps in various aspects

from the steps according to the claimed method and apparatus of the present application.

According to Osako, one book of gathered sheets is stitched from the inside toward the outside (a') and one product that is stitched from the outside toward the inside (b') are joined along the folded edges by gluing them together to form an intermediate product c'. Following this, a cover sheet 131 is glued in a perfect binder against the **outside fold** of the composite saddle-stitched book c'. Three bookbinding lines C, B and E are therefore needed for this producing this print product, and it does not follow the method or apparatus claimed by Applicant.

Contrary to the disclosure of Osako, the claimed method and apparatus produces a print product 8 from gathered printed signatures 3, 2, and then, a signature 17 is supplied to the **inside and/or the inside fold** of print product 8 to cover the closed staple legs. According to Applicant's method and apparatus, the intermediate product is produced exclusively on a gathering and wire-stitching machine and an adhesive-covered signature, coated with adhesive along the outer fold, is then supplied to the **inside** of the opened intermediate product. Thus, the claimed invention provides a compact wire-stitching wherein a protective signature covers the ends of the wire closures. Osako discloses an apparatus that supplies a cover to the outside of the composite saddle-stitched book; instead of a conveyor that transfers and deposits the intermediate product **onto** the protective signature, as recited in apparatus claim 10. Accordingly, Osako fails to disclose each and every feature of independent claim 10 and depending claims 11-13 of the present application. Thus, Osako cannot anticipate the claimed invention and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

The method and apparatus according to claimed method and apparatus differs

considerably from the opposite construction taught by Osako. It is not until depending claim 5 that a cover sheet is fed to the combined article, including the protective signature, on an additional conveyor. Osako teaches a different combined article, without a protective signature being glued to the inside of a printed product. Thus, one skilled in the art cannot arrive at the recited method and apparatus with the recited print product claimed by Applicant on the basis of the Osako reference, as Osako teaches against the claimed invention of the independent claims (i.e., gluing the outside folded edge of a protective signature to the inside folded edge of the printed product).

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Osako in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,420,282 to Axelrod for reasons set forth in paragraph 7 of the Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 depends from claim 5 and is directed to the applying adhesive to the inside folded edge of the cover sheet (as opposed to a protective signature) to attach the cover sheet to the combined article. The secondary reference to Axelrod discloses a method for binding a book, which is composed of printed and folded signatures and is bound at the surface with a cover 21 that is coated with hot glue. Nowhere does Axelrod address the missing steps of gluing the outside folded edge of a protective signature to the inside folded edge of the printed product to form a combined article as claimed by Applicant. Accordingly, Axelrod cannot cure the defects of Osako as argued above, as it simply discloses placing a cover on an adhesive coated combined article. Nowhere does Axelrod disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention, let alone provide the necessary motivation to achieve the claimed method and apparatus.

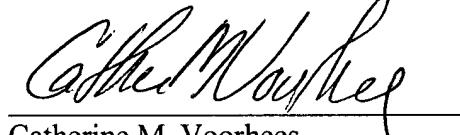
In view of the above arguments, it is respectfully submitted that Osako fails to

either anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention, and that any combination of Osako with Axelrod would not achieve the claimed invention. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1-3, 5-13 and 19, as well as indicated allowable claims 14-18, are patentable over the art of record. A Notice of Allowance indicating that claims 1-19 are allowed over the prior art of record and that claim 4 is rejoined because generic claims 1 and 10 are allowed is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference with the Applicants' representative would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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